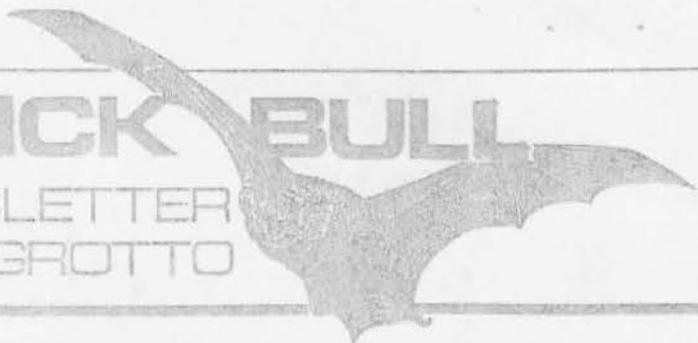


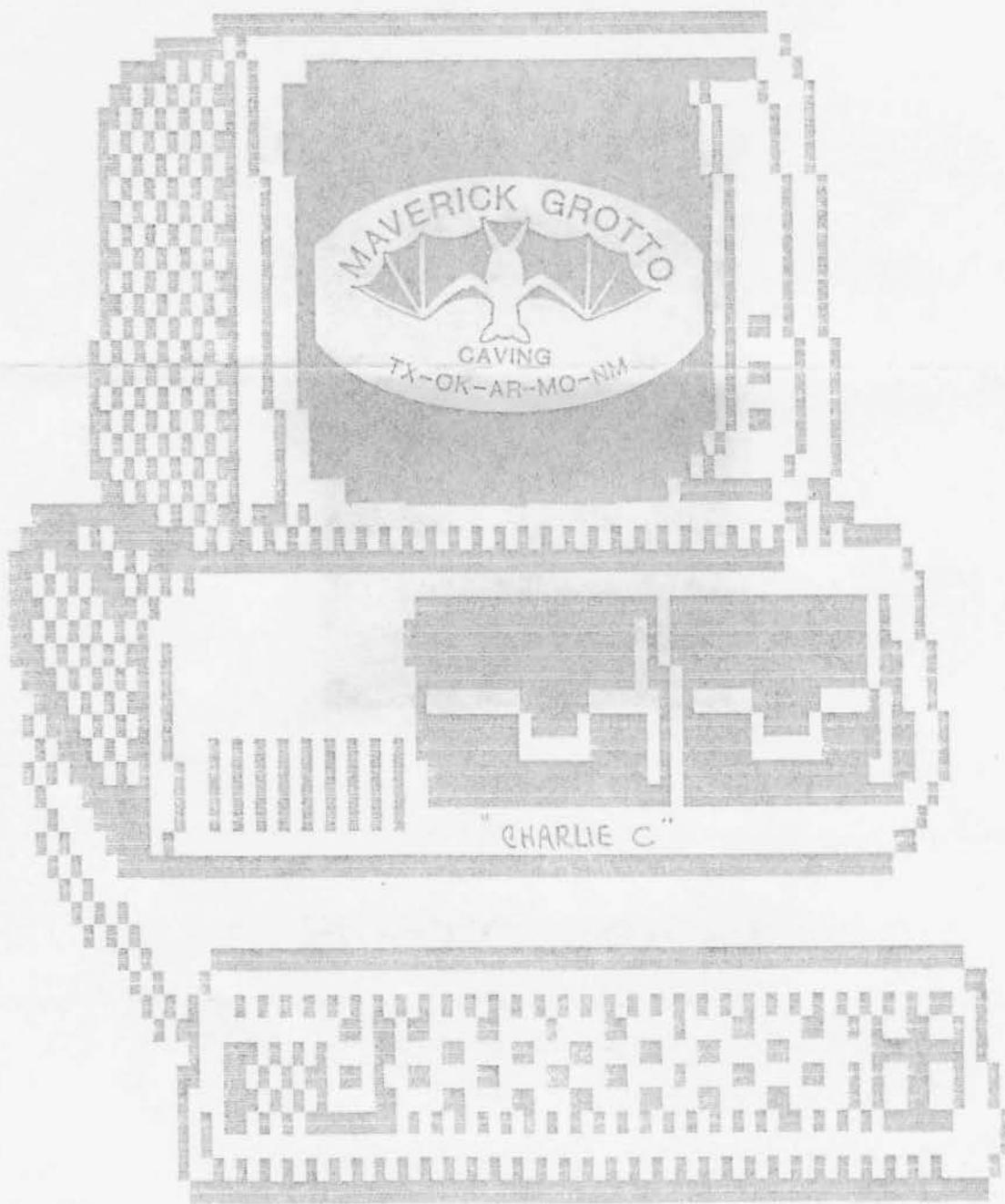
# THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Nov - 1991



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 9-10, Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Woodrow Thomas at 903-395-4431 or Greg Nooty at 311-827-2857.

NOVEMBER 22, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING. Election of officers for 1992 - Decision on Christmas Party, time and date. Our party will not be at Danny's home this year so please show up for this important meeting.

NOVEMBER 15-17, CAVERNS OF SONORA - clean up. Contact George Veni, (512)352-4463. Work in tour area of cave cleaning construction debris - no off trail exploration.

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 1, EL SOTANO DE BARRO or COLONDRINAS, this 1,380 foot deep pit, will be accomplished with cavers from Dallas, Fort Worth, Wichita Falls and the U.K. The number of cavers will be limited! This will be a very demanding and strenuous trip for competent vertical cavers only. Call Don Denton (817)732-0441(D)/322-5832(F), or Jay Jordan (214)398-9272.

NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 1, LECHUGUILLA PRECISION CAVE SURVEY. Call Fritzi Hardy (505)345-1709(M). Please give at least one weeks notice.

NOVEMBER 28-31, FITTON CAVE, ARKANSAS. Working on permits for Friday and Saturday for 16 people per day, should know about permits at meeting. This is a FUR trip there will be no work, violators will be prosecuted. Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039, Mark Porter (214)271-5147.

NOVEMBER 28-31, CARLEBAD CAVERNS NP, contact Hank Wiedlaw, (518)665-2350. CALL at least one week in advance.

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1, CARIA VALLEY WILDGATE RANCH. Involves sidetracking in search of new caves and surveying in Hutto's Cave. Contact: Handy Waters (512)342-2722(M), 322-3880(F).

NOVEMBER 28-1991, PRECIPICIO, Tlaxcala, Mexico. The exact date

for the trip will be announced later. Trips to Precipicio are strenuous and require hiking about 4-6 hours and an overnight stay in the cave. Contact: Bill Steele, 512-377-0650 or Oren Tranbarger at 512-322-2710(D)/512-349-0208(N).

NOVEMBER 7-9, MYSTIC CAVE AREA, DFW Grotto monthly expedition, contact: Woodrow Thomas (902)395-4431 or Gregg Nooty (214)827-2857 for more information.

DECEMBER 13-14, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039.

1992 EVENTS

JANUARY 10-12, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. Contact: Butch Fralia.

FEBRUARY 1-2, TSA WINNEM MEETING, San Saba. Work Project - Primarily a survey training course to be held by George Veni. More later!!!!

FEBRUARY 7-9, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. Contact: Butch Fralia.

MARCH 29-30, HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA. Special project to complete work in 21 caves which has spanned over several years. It's a long trip but the last time the park staff barbecued a pig and a great time was had by all. Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039.

MARCH 13-14, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. Contact: Butch Fralia.

APRIL 25-25, TSA SPRING CONVENTION - KICKAPOO CAVERNS STATE PARK (SITE). Technical meeting with caving and some project work available for those interested. Contact: Butch Fralia (817)346-2039.

MAY 3-7, NSS CONVENTION. Salem, Indiana, Delaney Creek Park. Contact: Scott Lee c/o 1992 Convention, P.O. Box 2262, Clarksville, IN. 46206. (317)291-7207. Register now for NSS until October 31, 1991. All fees are fully refundable.

## WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting was hosted by Chairman Dale Ellison. Items of interest were the personal appearances put in by Steve Gentry and Jean Might. Steve and his wife are the generous printers of our newsletter so this was a living opportunity to express our thanks. Jean Might caves and races Hobbie Cat boats, since the boating season is winding down, it's time to start caving again.

Danny Sherrod he would be taking the British Cavers to visit Caves of New Mexico from November 15-22. He needs help in hauling them there and guiding them around. Any one interested should call Danny as soon as possible at (817)295-5167.

Danny also announced that he would not be able to hold the annual Grotto Christmas party at his house this year. There are no readily available sites so this will be a hot item for discussion at the next meeting.

Russell Hill discussed the raffle and what it had brought in so far. It was decided that the raffle would continue but perhaps the more expensive give-aways would be held at major events like parties or other major events. To date the raffle has shown a profit and paid for itself.

A motion was made by Bruce Anderson to make a standing annual donation for a door prize at Oldtimers. The motion was seconded by Butch Fralia and the membership approved by a majority vote.

Nomination of officers for 1992 began with Butch Fralia - Chairman, Ed Young - Vice-chairman, Jimmy Thomas - Treasurer, and Dale Ellison as Editor/Secretary.

Steve (?) of the Tulsa Grotto was present and announced an underground cleanup and restoration of the Twin Cave System during the first three weekends of November. Interested parties should call Bill Howard (918)437-6016.

Steve also announced a cave fest in the Spavinaw area northwest of Tulsa for the 1st weekend in December. There will be a big cookout, door prizes and lots of caves. This is a neat area and worth the trip.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Items of interest for the next meeting are:

Where will the annual Christmas Party be held? Anyone with ideas should attend or call someone who will attend. This is a

hot item of interest to all party animals. Butch Fralia is willing to have it at his house if nothing else comes up but there could be a space problem.

Election of officers for 1992, nominees are Butch Fralia - Chairman, Ed Young - Vice-Chairman, Jimmy Thomas - Treasurer, Dale Ellison - Editor/Secretary. Nominations are still open so please come by and vote or throw your hat in the ring. This is a very important decision and the future of the Grotto could depend upon who YOU elect.

## 1994 NSS CONVENTION - IN TEXAS?

Submitted by Donna Anderson

At the October 1991, Texas Oldtimer's Convention, a volunteer committee was formed to pursue the idea of the cavers of Texas hosting the 1994 NSS Convention. Ron Ralph of Austin and Jay Jordan of Dallas were elected co-chairmen, and I was elected secretary of this committee. The convention committee is open to anyone wishing to volunteer. A sub-committee of about seven individuals was created to check out and make recommendations for a convention site. Bruce Anderson, from our Grotto, is on this sub-committee. Various sites for the convention are currently being studied. There will be a write-up in the next Texas Caver about this committee and the proposed convention (the Editor's Staff will cover this and report it in the following MAVERICK BULL). Mike Walsh gave an in depth presentation for a site at Brackettville. All NSS requirements can be met at this site. It was decided to have our convention proposal ready by the end of February. We will try to send it to NSS a couple of weeks before the Winter TSA Meeting. The next meeting for the convention committee will be held December 14, 1991 at Colorado Bend State Park. This will be the same weekend of the scheduled monthly work trap.

## HELP WANTED:

### CARLSBAD CAVERN - MYSTERY ROOM

Cavers interested in participating in the re-survey and mapping of Carlsbad Cavern's Mystery Room are invited to join in the project. Due to the extent and complexity of this large room the project is expected to require over one year to complete. Cavers interested in making one or more trips are needed. Trips are

limited to two teams of four people each. Most work is in huge walking passage with little crawling. Some trips will require vertical or climbing skills. Responding cavers should have some experience in cave survey. As usual, good sketchers are in short supply and encouraged to reply. The majority of the work is in known passage, however, new discoveries are being made and virgin passage is possible.

A typical survey trip will consist of working all day Saturday in the Mystery Room from 8:30 AM until about 6:00 PM. To sweeten the deal, crew members will enjoy a Saturday night trip back into the main cavern for sight seeing or photography. You may choose to visit one or more of the off-trail rooms or go off trail in the Big Room after all the paying customers and staff have gone home. Photographers should bring plenty of film and flash bulbs because these after hours trips have proven to be a lot of fun. You get 22 miles to cave 'til you drop. Sunday is reserved for follow up work, more back-cave visitation then going home preparation.

Crews will enjoy the available CRF huts with hot showers, fully equipped kitchens and bunks. Huts have heating and air conditioning to avoid some of the nasty Guadalupe weather you may have heard about. We can work with groups of few as three or as large as eight. One or two people interested can be combined with another small group if needed. Those interested are encouraged to reply to Pat Helton, 3517 77th Dr., Lubbock, TX, 79423 or call (806)796-0973. The best time to call is from 9:30 PM 'til midnight. Pat will work out a trip schedule with you.

#### TEXAS OLDTIMERS REUNION

Submitted by: Butch Fralia

As usual the 1991 Oldtimers Reunion lived up to it's reputation as the annual "in" event of Texas Caving. Cavers from all over the state attended with much camaraderie, fun, good food, good music, and plenty of meetings.

Saturday morning at oldtimers began early with the cooks getting their act together. I was scheduled to cook a whole pig which was coming in from Hill Country State Natural Area. The Park Superintendent was even throwing in the cooker. The Pig and cooker arrived late and the "pig" turned out to be a quarter of a piglet. There was a whole pig left behind for reasons never completely

understood.

The gourmet special for the weekend was to be flying goat. The name derived from the frames which the goats were wired to for cooking. They were spread eagled around an open fire and turned often. The goats being small received a great deal of attention from curious bystanders making tongue in cheek comments about road kill and caver dogs looking for handouts.

This year, the TSA meeting was held at 10:30 AM on Saturday morning. When held on Sunday people are packing to leave and seldom attend the meeting. As his last official act, outgoing Chairman Doug Allen appointed Keith Heuss, (one of our Maverick Grotto members), as Liaison between TSA and Texas Parks and Wildlife. This was approved by all members present.

The main area of discussion was election of officers. TSA officers for 1992 are: Carl Ponebchek - Chairman, Butch Fralia - Vice-Chairman and Mary Sandifer - Secretary/Treasurer.

It should be noted that last year at this time, the TSA was in dire need of money. Dues were raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and many people made additional donations to assure the TEXAS CAVER MAGAZINE would continue in the fine form we've come to expect. This year, the treasury is in good shape.

As has been discussed for many years in the past, non-profit status again came up. It almost became reality several times but somehow the ball got dropped. Jay Jordan agreed to assume the responsibility of assuring this action takes place. He managed to get non-profit status for DFW Grotto before the \$150.00 fee came into effect. It's likely he'll get it done for TSA.

With the meeting over, people scattered about for the more traditional fun like spending money with Bob and Bob. Emily Davis Mobley was present for Speleobooks, Gonzo-Guano (Joe Ivy and Linda Fallit) from San Antonio, Al Rehfeldt and Diana Andrews for Diana's Dive Shop were all present. Karl Komenski, Ranger from Carlsbad Cavern was present selling his own water color paintings. There was so much stuff being sold, it was hard to keep track of it all.

The usual rope climbing contest, speleo-olympics and hot-tubbing were enjoyed by many.

Saturday night saw the first appearance of a band at oldtimers. There were enough people in the immediate area of



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other Grottoes to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-address stamped envelope should accompany it.

REPRINTING ARTICLES: Internal organizations of the NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author, as will be stated in the byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor of THE MAVERICK BULL at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottoes. Contact the editor.

COMPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates are \$10.00 per year for members and non-members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any individual with interest, beliefs and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO and THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next door to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M. and the food is good.

CARBIDE: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting on even numbered months. The carbide is free to all members and is sold to others at the price of fifty-cents per pound. Anyone needing carbide at other times should contact Bruce Anderson (817/246-6313) to arrange for pickup.

LIBRARY: Support you Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books, magazines articles on cave related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library. We wish to thank Russell for his efforts each month to bring and set up the Grotto Library.

CHAIRMAN: Dale Ellison  
1208 Dan Gould Rd.  
Arlington, Tx, 76017  
(817)473-0463

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Bruce Anderson  
504 Kimbrough  
Ft. Worth, Tx, 76108  
(817)246-6313

SECRETARY/EDITOR: Dale Ellison  
(Acting) 1208 Dan Gould Rd.  
Arlington, Tx, 76017  
(817)473-0463

TREASURER: Jimmy Thomas  
3705 Bluebonnet Circle  
Weatherford, Tx, 76087  
(817)599-8278

CAVE RESCUE: CALL COLLECT (512)686-0234

